

Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP)

Project Proposal

Project Title:

Goose Point Marsh Creation

Entity/Individual Nominating Project:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex

Contact Information:

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Total CIAP Funds Requested:

\$14 million

Infrastructure Funds Proposed:

No infrastructure funds proposed.

Description and Location of Project:

Project is located on Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge, St. Tammany Parish Louisiana. Project is located on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain in the vicinity of Bayou Lacombe. Project will expand upon and complement CWPPRA project PO-33 Goose Point/Point Platte Marsh Creation. Sediment will be dredged from Lake Pontchartrain, contained in cells within the interior ponds, and planted with vegetation to create approximately 200 acres of emergent marsh. In addition, 150 acres of degraded marsh will be nourished with dredged material. Areas of shoreline degradation will be rebuilt to slow shoreline retreat. Approximately 500-600 acres of tidally influenced emergent marsh are expected to benefit from this project both directly and indirectly. The anticipated loss rate reduction throughout the area of direct benefits over the project life is <25%.

Project Type:

Conservation, restoration, and protection of coastal area, including wetland.

Project Justification:

Interior ponding and, to a lesser extent, shoreline erosion are the major causes of wetland loss in the project area. Loss rates were highest during the period from 1956 to 1978. Those high loss rates were associated with hydrologic alterations which allowed salt water to penetrate the fresher marshes. During the transition to a more brackish plant community, large ponds were formed. A narrow strip of land separates those ponds from

Lake Pontchartrain. Additional marsh loss has occurred with the passage of Hurricane Katrina.

The goal of this project is to re-create marsh habitat in the open water behind the shoreline. This new marsh will maintain the lake rim function along this section of the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain by preventing the formation of breaches into the interior marsh.

Project supports Coast 2050 Strategies 7a – Restore/Sustain Wetlands and 8 – Protect Bay/Lake Shoreline for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin.

Project Cost Share:

No cost share is anticipated at the current time.